

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE STEIN RIVER WATERSHED  
-- 'MODERN' MAN'S INFLUENCE

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1912 B.C. Lands Branch surveys area.

late 1920's Art Kent becomes familiar with the Stein, takes several parties into the valley to look at the timber. Interest in logging wanes because the good stands of timber are too small and road building too costly.

1930's - 40's Various people trapping and prospecting in the valley: trapper, Jimmy Johnstone; Dunstan family; Bert Welsh prospects up Cottonwood; Mr. Hicks builds bridge across the Stein (at present cable location) on trail to Silver Queen Mine.

1950's Ron Purvis travels in the Stein, fishing; takes in students from Lytton.

1960's Valley becomes increasingly well known by mountaineers.

1968 Chris Adam expresses concern for area to B.C. Wildlife Federation.

1970 Forest Service carries out inventory.

1971 Ken Morris stakes vesuvianite claim near Antimony and Skihist Mountains.

1972 Chris Adam shows slides to B.C. Wildlife Federation; contacts Roy Mason.

summer Opportunities For Youth project, "Stein River Hiking Trail".

1973 Nov 16 A. West, Regional Director of the Fish & Wildlife Branch, writes to E.H. Vernon, Deputy Minister of Recreation & Conservation, expressing concern over fish and wildlife resource of Stein Valley being adversely affected by logging. Requests interdepartmental study of area before arbitrary and single use road construction and timber harvest begins.

Dec 4 Roy B. Mason submits "Stein River - a brief recommending preservation of a wilderness area" to the Minister of Lands, Forest & Water Resources (R.A. Williams) and to the Minister of Recreation & Conservation (J. Radford). (see "Stein River Watershed", Vol. I, Appendix A, by F.M.C.B.C.)

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Dec 12 Letter of support from B.C. Wildlife Federation (see "Stein River Watershed" Vol.I, Appendix D).

1973-74 Chris and Gudrun Adam build log cabin on their property.

1974 Jan 28 Supporting letter sent by Conservation Committee of B.C. Mountaineering Club. (see "Stein River Watershed", Vol.I, Appendix E).

Feb 20 Announcement of 2 year moratorium by government on the "last unlogged valley in the area". (see "Stein River Watershed", Vol.I, Appendix K).

Feb 23 Federation of Mountain Clubs of B.C. sponsors "Outdoor Recreation Management Conference" at U.B.C.; endorses Roy Mason's Brief.

summer Parks Branch staff helicoptered into Stein. Fish & Wildlife Branch staff study area, raft down the middle section of the Stein.

1975 early in year F.M.C.B.C. Recreation & Conservation Committee decides to give high priority to study of the Stein.

Jan 9 F.M.C.B.C. writes Dept. of Recreation & Conservation to state concern over the progress of the government Stein study and the terms of reference.

Mar 10 Margriet Wyborn and Roy Mason put together a slide show on the Stein for public showings.

Apr 12-13 The "Conference on Recreational Uses of Wildlands" is held at B.C.I.T. Recommendations related to the Stein arise from the wilderness workshop.

Apr 24 David Thompson is nominated as F.M.C.B.C. Stein study project director.

May 14 All relevant material is shown to interested government departments.

1975 spring & summer (Apr 17, May 14, Sept 20)

- 1975 spring & summer (Apr 17, May 14, Sept 20) Three meetings of the Stein study group.
- summer & fall Eight trips into the Stein Watershed are made by the F.M.C.B.C. (including a 80 mile 9 day expedition Aug 16-24, 1975, via Lizzie Creek trail, alpine traverse to Tundra Lake, then ridge descent north of Stein Lake to river, and following river to Lytton).
- Oct The completion of the "Stein River Watershed" (Volumes I & II) by the F.M.C.B.C., with endorsement of B.C. Wildlife Federation, Federation of B.C. Naturalists, Canoe Sport B.C., and B.C. Horse Owners' Assoc.
- 1976 Jan Stein Basin Government Study Committee submits its report to Environment and Land Use Committee.
- Mar 31 Film and slide presentation to the Vancouver Natural History Society by Roger Freeman.
- May 12 E.L.U.C. decides not to give any special consideration to the Stein, but to keep it under multiple use. Environment Minister, Jim Nielsen, announces in a news release the end of the moratorium -- "Carefully planned and executed logging and mining, guided for example by the folio system used elsewhere in B.C. for planned logging layout will ensure that adequate environmental safeguards are undertaken. This will assist in achieving multiple use."
- July 15 Article in BC Today, "Last Stand for the Stein River Valley?" by Gordon Pollard.
- July Week long exploratory trip following a ridge along the North Stein River (access via Van Horlick).
- Sept/Oct Issue of B.C. Outdoors carries an editorial, "Unless you care -- say goodbye to the Stein River Valley" by Art Downs; notes that the government will not release its Moratorium Study.
- Sept 23 Vancouver Sun reprints this article.

Oct 9-10 First navigation of Stein River from Stein Lake to cable crossing in a kayak by Klaus Streckmann. By this time over 20 trips had been made into the area by F.M.C.B.C. members since the summer of 1974.

Oct 26 Sierra Club public meeting on the Stein. David Thompson introduces to a large audience the situation of the Stein. Slides and film are shown by Klaus Streckmann.

Government releases to the public its "The Stein Basin Moratorium Study". This study recommends:

- The best option for this area is that it should be operated for a mix of resource uses as and when this option becomes economically feasible.
- Pending upward changes in the economic conditions, the Stein drainage should be temporarily removed from the Annual Allowable Cut for the Botanie Public Sustained Yield Unit.
- Development of mining should be prevented until a full resource commitment is made to forestry.

Dec 9 A public meeting is held in Lytton at the Kumsheen Secondary School to discuss the future of the Stein. The meeting is chaired by school principal, Don King; the panel includes Mike Brown (Chief of Lytton Indian Band), David Thompson (FMCBC), Will Paulik (BCWF), Ron Purvis (from Lillooet author and rockhound), and Art Kent (retired pioneer, formerly in the B.C. Forest Service). Slides are shown by Klaus Streckmann with D. Thompson narrating.

1977 Jan 21 An informal organizational meeting of the Save the Stein Coalition.  
Jan *FBCN Conservation Area (Chair Dick Stagg-Smith) becomes involved and active on Save the Stein Coalition*

Jan 28 One page leaflet is prepared - "Save a Wild River, Create the Stein River Provincial Park".

Jan 29 A public meeting is held in Lytton, organized by the Hon. Tom Waterland, Minister of Forests and M.L.A. for Yale-Lillooet. Speakers from the government include Forest Service and Mines staff. Presentations are also made by D. Thompson (FMCBC) and Dale Denney (BCWF). Questions from the audience follow. Mr. Waterland's position is that logging will go ahead if and when it becomes economically viable. It will create 50 plus jobs. Mining also will go ahead when viable.

Mar 6 Public meeting in Lillooet chaired by Ron Purvis. Slides and film are shown.  
*Summer 1977 - FBCN Exploratory Camp to upper Stein*

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